

Quid Novi

Vol. XII, No.7

McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITE MCGILL FACULTE DE DROIT

October 28, 1991
le 28 octobre 1991

A Halloween Story

by R. Gregory Hood, BCL II

It is the week of Halloween. All Hallows Eve. Scary thoughts come to mind. Or do they? It seems like I am getting harder and harder to scare these days. Still, Halloween might be the one time of the year that could send a little supernatural terror into our hearts. Will you venture outside your home alone at night on All Hallows Eve?

Imagine that it is a cool fall evening. Dark, thick clouds pass overhead quickly, washing over a pale full moon. You have to get home. It's late. You're very tired. You might still get the last Metro. You go down into the station.

There is no one around, even the ticket booth is empty. You hear the subway

train coming, and you run for it. The train stops and you get on. You have a long way to go. The doors of the car slide shut smoothly. You close your eyes.

At this point in my Halloween story anything could happen. In fact, it is going to take an act of mental coercion for me to figure something out. My imagination is not used to the exercise. I am going to have to compel myself to break out of the normal mode of thinking that I have developed for everyday use. My normal mode of thinking/reasoning will not produce what I consider to be a very scary story. Or even a very interesting story.

An education in law, or one in engineering for that matter, is an excellent training for the mind. It, more than anything, teaches a person how to think. Or so I

have been told. But as I sit here thinking about what I am going to do to finish off my Halloween story, I am not sure that all the thinking that I have learned to do in law and in engineering is helping me very much.

This is because a Halloween story has to be scary; it has to have elements of terror and irrationality and unknown in it. It has to have good and evil, some heroes and some villains, the devil, black cats and some witches, and ghosts galore. It has to talk about spirits and magic and fear and full moons. Now Law and Engineering might teach you how to fix your toaster, or, even better still, how to sue the manufacture, but it is not going to tell you how to write a Halloween story.

Cont'd p.5

The Race for a Place

By Pat Kosseim, Nat. IV

Every year, usually around the same time, the needle of the barometer in Old Chancellor Day Hall climbs steadily and rapidly, spins around a couple of times, and eventually lands on the red belt marked «danger zone». No one has ever been able to account for this strange phenomenon and for years now, people have given up trying. If the reading on the barometer were a truly accurate measure of the level of atmospheric pressure inside

the Faculty, no human being could possibly survive therein. But since the everyday hustle and bustle of law school life continues as usual, year after year, despite what are supposedly deathly conditions, then the barometer must simply be wrong. In the final analysis, as far as the people responsible are concerned, the barometer is but an old, broken, useless instrument that no one takes seriously anyway.

Cont'd on p.6

Dans ce numéro In This Issue

Coin des Sports Corner... p.3

The Newest Soap Operas... p.4

Should I Stay Or Should
I Go?... p.7

Green Space... p.8

McGILL UNIVERSITY

OCT 31 1991

LAW LIBRARY

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ANNNONCES

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CAREER DAY SPEAKERS - the Environmental Law Association of McGill, in association with the Careers Day Committee, will present three speakers in a discussion about the practice of various types of environmental law. Question and answer period will be followed. Wednesday October 30th, at noon in room 200.

INTERNATIONAL LAW SOCIETY - presents Prof. Irwin Cotler who will talk about «The Russian Revolution: A Canadian Lawyer's Personal Diary». Professor Cotler will discuss his recent trip to the Soviet Union as a Member of the Committee on the Fate and Whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg and as a Representative of Canadian Helsinki Watch. The event will be held on Wednesday October 30th, at 12 p.m. in Moot Court.

FORUM NATIONAL - presents Professor Donald McRae, Dean of the University of Ottawa Law School and Chairperson of the Canadian Law Deans Association. The topic discussed will be «What's wrong with Canada's Law Schools?». Professor McRae will share his views on the problems facing the legal education system in Canada today. The presentation will take place Wednesday, October 30th, at 1:00 p.m. in room 202.

L.S.A. — AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE - This year the L.S.A. is creating an Award for Teaching Excellence. This award will recognize one professor each academic year for his or her teaching abilities. In order to successfully implement the award, the L.S.A. will require the assistance of the entire student body. Beginning October 28, nomination forms will be available in SAO. The nomination period for this term will end November 9. There will be a separate nomination period next semester. Only nominate those professors now, who teach now! Following each semester's 2 week nomination period, mem-

bers of the Committee on Teaching Excellence will sit in on classes taught by the nominated professors. This will afford the committee a chance to speak to other students in the class and observe for themselves some of the professor's abilities.

In order to nominate your favorite professor pick up a form now in SAO. You will be required to write an evaluation listing specific reasons for your nomination and the underlying criteria you deem important for such an award to be given. You may only nominate a professor in whose class you are currently enrolled.

Obviously, the difficult issue is how to decide which criteria are indicative of teaching excellence. You may wish to consider the interest and coherence of lectures; availability outside the classroom; ability to encourage intelligent discussion of the pertinent issues; enthusiasm about the course subject; openness toward other ideas; sincerity and concern towards students' needs.

All professors who are currently teaching at the faculty are eligible, including practitioners. The Award will be presented at the last Coffeehouse of the academic year. The committee welcomes your nominations. Thank you. The Committee: Mahmud Jamal; Sivan Fox; Tina Hobday; Chris Wayland and Leora Joseph.

L.S.A.- PHONE BOOK - L.S.A. phonebooks are now available from your class presidents. Please be sure to get one !!! Should you notice a mistake in the phonebook, please tell Nathalie Goldin, V.P. Civil by no later than October 28, as a list of corrections will be published at a later time in the Quid Novi.

THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION - the Canadian Bar Association has announced this year's competition for the Viscount Bennet Fel-

lowship. The Fellowship is worth \$20,000 and is paid annually to one student for legally oriented graduate study in an institution of higher learning. The Fellowship competition is open to Canadian citizens who have graduated from an approved law school in Canada or who, at the time of application, are pursuing final year studies as undergraduate students at an approved law school. The application deadline is December 15th 1991. You may obtain further information and application forms from Associate Dean Stephen Toope.

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW STUDENTS/ ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDIANTS EN DROIT - is looking for articles on a variety of topics including: Beneficial practical experience while preparing for a legal career; modern challenges/opportunities for lawyers in the 90's; unique programs offered at your law school; alternatives to private practice; recent accomplishments by the law school associations; the lighter side of law/cartoon catharsis. Or anything else you think your pre-professional peers would like to read. Articles can be any length and must be submitted by October 31st, 1991 for publication in the November Communique. Please deliver articles to the CALS/ACED representative Leora Joseph, V.P. Common.

CHARITY - For five dollars a week, you can brighten a destitute child's life and change his/her future through Project Reach Out. For more information, phone Ken Fernandez at 623-6413. If absent, please leave a message.

LAW & MEDECINE - Legal Issues in Medical Practice. Sixth Lecture: «Damage awards, insurance premiums and why?», on Wednesday Oct. 30 in the Moot Court from 19h30 to 21h30.

HAUNTED HOUSE HALLOWEEN PARTY!!!

On Oct. 31st, after haunted (coffee) house: halloween party at the Steel Monkey (4158 St-Laurent) at 9 p.m. Tickets on sale daily in the Pit between 12h00-1h00.

COIN DES SPORTS CORNER

By your friendly sportspeople

THE MALPRACTICE CUP

In short, we won.

In long, it started too early, it was cold, it rained, it hailed, and it snowed. Given these conditions, special recognition is owing to those brave, bleary-eyed souls who showed up for the first event of the day, namely women's soccer and men's softball.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Terrific game. We shoulda won. Alas we lost 1-0.

MEN'S SOFTBALL: Great effort, big loss. Hanson H. was rock-steady at shortstop. In fact, he didn't move all game.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE: Rumour has it that all med students take an obligatory 6 credit course in this event, which explains their otherwise incomprehensible victories. There was a brief glimmer of hope in the men's game when the meds (ahead 10-2) agreed to play "next point wins", they won.

If you've been keeping track, you'll realize, as we did, that at that point the picture wasn't exactly rosy, although our exposed flesh was. But...

The turnaround started with **MEN'S SOCCER**. Paul S. led the team to a 3-0 win. Special mention to Dave (sledge-foot/head) P. on defense.

CO-REC SOFTBALL The "soft" refers to the infield in what was also christened "the mud bowl." Law students showed their superior adaptability by winning this entirely new sport. Game-winning catch by Pat D. to be replayed on TSN next weekend.

GOOFY OLYMPICS You hadda be there. We were far and away the goofiest. Mitch D. was an exemplary pyramid apex.

MEN'S FOOTBALL A little "demasiado macho" for the fans' taste. MUC Riot Squad was on full alert. Anyway, we won 7-6, leaving some frustrated doctors-to-be.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL All our Women did double duty in this game as they had to coach the other team while beating them 8-0. All were impressed by the offensive prowess of ringer Mitch D. Two interceptions by Tina H. led the way.

MEN'S RUGBY Paul M. gets special credit for creating a solid team on short notice.

Everyone who played this hotly-contested match agreed it was great fun. This came as a surprise for most of the team who had never played before.

Thus, the day events ended in a 5-5 tie between the faculties, leaving the winner to be determined that evening at the Medical annex...

FACULTY FEUD Led by "big daddy" Roland L., the law family did not hesitate to call a ——— a ———. Dave S.'s ad-lib commercials laughed them away in the humour category.

DARTS Our first-year Nova-Scotian ringers Mike H. and Roger S. wowed the crowd in this cliff-hanger and silenced those who claimed that darts is not a spectator sport.

POOL The round-robin resulted in a brutal Law-Law elimination in which Santo M/Patrick M edged out André B/Perry N. In the finals against the med champions, the law champions forced a third and final game which came down to the last ball. Undoubtedly fatigued from their elimination matches, the law team failed to sink the 8-ball first.

As is appropriate for any such event, it all came down to the drinking. Ahead 7-6, the law team needed only to win one of the two **BOAT RACES** to take the day. The Women, captained by Jennifer W. and anchored by Marie-Josée L., chugged their way to a split-second victory, bringing down the Medical Annex in a thunderous roar as we clinched the

Malpractice Cup. Not to be outdone, and undoubtedly fearing snide comments about their maleness for the rest of the year, the men, captained by Steve L. and anchored by Philippe R., did what they had to do.

Just for the record: when the party ended some time after 3 A.M., there were many more law students than med students left on the dance floor.

The cost of this entire event?? \$1 at the door for party-goers, all of which went to the charity of the choice of the winning faculty: we chose the **Old Brewery Mission** as the recipient of the \$250 proceeds. Run on a shoe-string budget with considerable help from the Med school organizers and the Medical Annex staff, the entire day cost the L.S.A a mere \$40.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Best week so far for the **Men's Prosecutors Hockey** team; they didn't have a game.

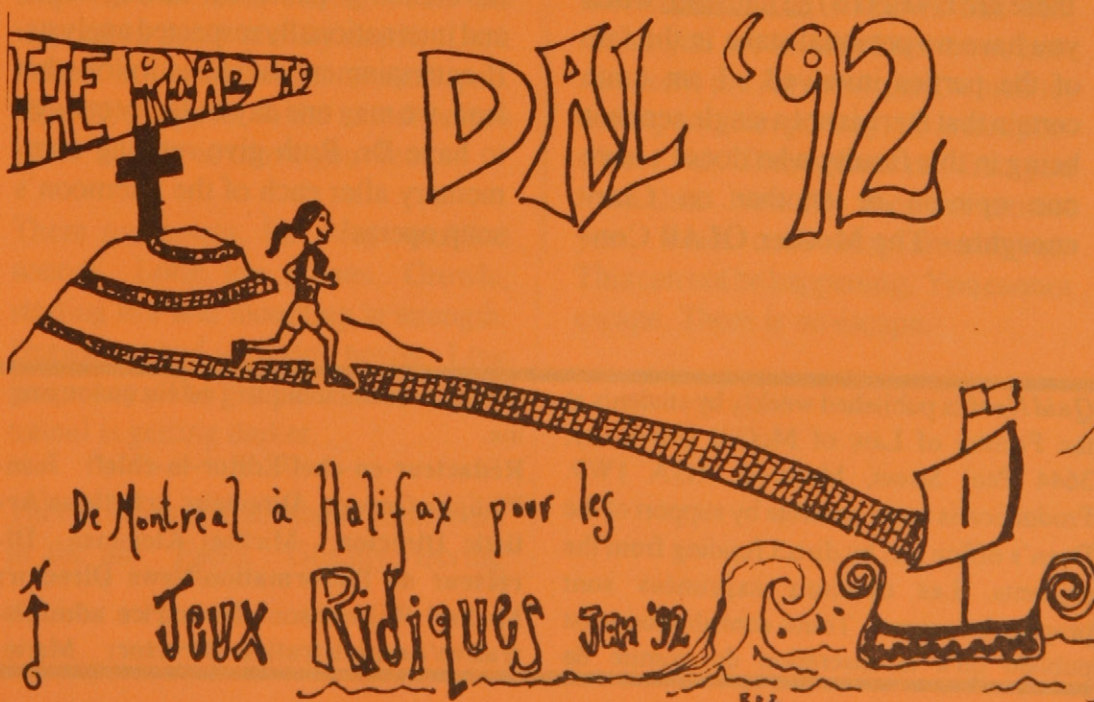
Stunning victory by the **Women's Flag Football** team on Friday. Catherine-the Sack Queen-N. would not be denied by their offensive line.

There were many other playoff games this weekend: **Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Co-Rec Ultimate Frisbee, Co-Rec Softball, Men's Softball, Men's Flag Football.**

The News you ask???? Well did you hear about the **Malpractice Cup??**

LAW GAMES UPDATE

12 Weeks until Law Games.....



The Newest Soap Operas

By Joshua Fireman, BCL II

Television has given us the sort of instant access to information that was once the stuff of science-fiction novels. We can watch a team of astronauts get blown to smithereens a hundred times over. We can watch a war, live and in full colour. We can be front and centre at a world-class assassination. And, of course, we can watch two perfect strangers, dragged before moral judges of the calibre of Teddy Kennedy, have their reputations destroyed in the comfort of our own living rooms.

Is it just my imagination, or is there something distinctly perverse about all of this? It strikes me that we are engaging, on a more and more frequent basis, in exercising of hightech voyeurism. We can stare into the most intimate and penetrating moments of lives and events, vicariously experiencing the thrill of «being there» all the while maintaining a safe detachment from the event.

It is simple to lean back and dissect an event (and make no mistake about it - these are EVENTS) ad nauseam when you have no personal stake in the fate of the parties involved. I am quite certain that there is not a single sentient being in this faculty who doesn't have one opinion or another on **Clar-encegate - The Mother Of All Con-**

firmation Hearings. But the question remains to be asked... Is this a good thing?

A happening on a par with the Clar-encegate hearings does not serve as a forum in which society may find itself enlightened as to sensitive and controversial issues. Don't delude yourself; the message being delivered through our television sets was not that sexual harassment is deplorable. It was not that a new format must be found for American confirmation hearings. It was not that democracy was being served by a public questioning of a candidate for the U.S. Supreme Court.

The message was a great deal simpler: news events make for great entertainment. Pure and simple. What we are being treated to in the age of 24-hour newscasts are live-action soap operatic productions. We can watch morality plays acted out through real live people - weeping mothers, angry friends, wounded victims and heartless aggressors. And, news coverage goes one step further than the daytime soaps, as we are provided with penetrating expert commentary from a neverending panel of distinguished and internationally respected analysts. If entertainment divisions follow this lead, we may one day be lucky enough to have Dr. Ruth give running commentary after each of the afternoon's soap operas!

Through all of the complex but highly sensational storylines that seem to constitute today's blockbuster news milestones, there are, of course, underlying moral messages of an equally sophisticated nature. The themes are succinct and to the point: don't invade a neighbour with large oil reserves in his back yard. Don't discuss bestiality with your employees. Don't wear striped shirts on television. Now, isn't this an effective way of communicating moral standards of behaviour to the general population? The answer should be obvious.

I enjoy a fine soap opera as much as the next person. But, television news departments are not broadcasting works of fiction. We are getting to see directly into other people's lives. We get to see them bleed, we get to see them cry and sometimes, we even get to see them die. But, one thing we never get is to feel their hurt, their pain and their sense of loss. This is real life we are dealing with here. Perhaps it was time we began treating it with the respect it deserves.

psst... fiveweeks till exams...

Quid Novi is published weekly by students at the Faculty of Law of McGill University, 3644 Peel Street, Montreal, H3A 1W9. Production is made possible by support of the Dean's office and by direct funding from the students. Les opinions exprimées sont propres à l'auteur. Toute contribution n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de

rédaction et doit indiquer l'auteur ou son origine.

Rédacteur-en-chef/Editor-in-chief: Jean-Philippe Gervais **Directeur artistique/Artistic Director:** Michael Kleinman **Directeur de l'information/News Director:** Michael Wilhelmson **Directrice administrative/Administrative Director:** Marie-

Claude Rigaud **Rédacteurs/Editors:** Maaike de Bie, Arnold Bornstein, Alexandra Gillespie, Nancy Girard, Francis Harvey, Gregory Hood, Paul Moen, Greg Moore, Alain Olivier, Pierre Soulard **Gérants de production/Production Managers:** Paul Moen, Caroline Thomassin, Denis Guénette, Philippe Collard

Hallowe'en Story Cont'd from p.1

We have, of course, chosen the more practical occupation. But reflecting on it as Halloween approaches, I find something a little disturbing, in a strange way. I can't even remember the first time I had a nightmare. I can't help feeling that I have lost touch with something that is elemental in the human spirit.

If I have come to terms with calculus and computers and contracts and constitutions, I have done so at the expense of goblins and ghosts. Please don't misunderstand me, I am not espousing satanism. The point is that we all, as law students, take for granted a certain level of reality. And we operate upon it with the surgical tools of experience and reason. And it is rare that we venture outside at night, so to speak.

We constrain our thoughts to a narrow path. We examine cause and effect and report confidently that we have the universe by the tail. But we lose out as far as fantasy and imagination go.

Is any of this very important? Probably not. We live in a big city. No wood nymphs around here. Certainly, I am not arguing that it is only students of the law that are somehow losing their ability to scare themselves with their own silly imaginings. And we have plenty of things to be scared of anyway: exams, unemployment, crime, taxes, the Québec Nordiques.

The conclusion of my Halloween story is coming up. It is not a very long story. But I hope to incorporate in it some of those things that don't scare us any more. Just for old times sake.

When you wake up, it is dark. You are

still in the subway car, but it has stopped. You are in a tunnel and it is very dark and quiet. The train must be parked for the night. How could you have slept through it? As your eyes adjust to the blackness, you see that the doors of the car are open, and you climb down onto the floor of the tunnel. There is no station or platform, just a long dark tunnel and dark twisted wires and conduits everywhere. You pick a direction and start to walk.

After you have walked for a while you sense that the tunnel is leading you downward. The ground is wet and the air is getting colder. You think about going back to the subway car. You turn around.

After walking in the other direction for a while you sense that this direction goes down too.

You are dragging your feet through thick mud now. On the sides of the tunnel walls the cables and wires have grown thicker and more twisted. The tunnel is narrowing.

You try to walk quickly; the thick mud is slowing you down. The air is cold. You sense a strange feeling in the tunnel. You are breathing heavily. Something is moving around you. The cables on the walls are moving. You stop. Your mind races. You are trapped in some ghastly depth. Dark shapes coil and uncoil around you. Pale lights appear in the tunnel before you. You try to move your feet.

There are noises, far away, muffled sounds. Long, low groans. Growls, starting low and mounting in strength. Drawn out and wavering howls. Low frequency. The ground trembles. The tunnel is getting darker.

Then you begin to see them. Glimmers in the air. Faces. Ghastly, leering

faces. Their gaping mouths slowly opening and closing, their eyes twisted and menacing, and hungry. Gnawingly, greedily, hungry.

Other things are coming up from the tunnel. Ancient things. Things of power. Old gods, demons, shadows. Menacing, lurking, fleeting, waiting. Watching. It is cold. The noises are moving closer. Below your feet the mud in the tunnel begins to move.

Slowly, in horror, you begin to remember. Your mind, protected for so long by a thick shroud begins imperceptibly to clear. You remember these faces, these shadows from before. Things that you had long ago forgotten. Darkness from the past.

They have come to collect you. You have been claimed. Something done long ago. Some horror unrepented. Something unforgiven. These are the forces against you now. A cold wind blows in the tunnel. You shrink back in horror. It cannot be. That was so long ago. That was in another time; in another life. You thought you had escaped it. You thought that you were free from it.

The noises are very near. At your feet the mud is writhing and twisting; you see limbs, bodies reeling, trying to free themselves. The shadows that surround you are much closer now, horrors from the far away past, which no description can portray. It is not possible. No. Death does not free you from this. New life does not protect you. Black coils wrap around you. This can not be happening. You cannot escape. There is no escape.

The Race

Cont'd from p.1

Since my first year of law school, I have always been particularly intrigued by this occurrence and have sought a better explanation. I do not profess to be a physicist, but after four years of study, I have made several observations which are perhaps worthy of further examination.

First, there is an uncanny correlation between the time of year when the needle on the barometer begins to climb and that time of year when deadlines for job applications approach.

Second, much like the atmospheric pressure measured by the barometer, the stress of finding a job is so pervasive and overpowering that it spares no one. Both forces apply indiscriminately to all students alike, as early as first year, resulting in rash, desperate re-actons only to avert their effects.

Finally, atmospheric pressure applies in a uniform and unidirectional manner and in this way is not at all unlike the quest for jobs, which for most applicants unfortunately, is nothing but uniform and unidirectional.

With these most disturbing observations in mind, I volunteered to take on (what was unbeknownst to me at the time) the monstrous job of running the Placement Office. Over time, it became increasingly apparent that this job is no one-man show. I have since formed a committee of approximately ten volunteers and we are all working to turn this office into what will one day hopefully become a self-sufficient library of resources containing data on a vast array of career options aimed at helping applicants make informed choices about their future.

Between the ten of us, we are now able to keep the office open for twelve(12) hours a week (a significant increase from the past) so that students could have greater access to the information contained therein.

Louis Charette and Andreas Sautter are in the process of expanding our mailing list of Canadian law firms to cover not only the cities of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, but also Calgary, Edmonton, Regina/Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Hamilton, Quebec City, Saint John, St. John's, Charlottown and Halifax. Special effort has been made to include not only the largest corporate/commercial law firms, but also smaller size law firms with a wide range of specializations. To these potential employers have been sent questionnaires aimed at obtaining data that can help students get a better idea of the history, size, philosophy and biographical make-up of the firm itself, as well as information regarding the number of summer and articling positions open, hiring criteria, interview periods, rotations and programs offered, salaries, benefits (for example whether bar school fees are paid, pregnancy/family leave policies, health and dental insurance plans), hire-back ratios, etc.

Claudia Fuchs is preparing an expansive mailing list of major private corporations across Canada offering summer and articling opportunities in their in-house counsel departments. Douglas Holliston, Erica Stone and Ana Stuhec are doing the same with regard to federal and provincial government departments, major government agencies and public interest advocacy groups across Canada for students interested in joining the public sector. To these potential employers, will also eventually be sent specially designed questionnaires (to be updated on an annual basis) directed at familiarizing students with the unique types of experiences these different organizations have to offer.

Corina Stonebanks is laying the basic groundwork for students interested in international law career options, and Francis Harvey is doing the same for students interested in clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada or the provincial Court of Appeals.

Brian Cohen has undertaken to establish an internal network of contacts with whom interested applicants can speak directly. This involves formulating a questionnaire asking students who have already worked and/or are presently working for an employer to volunteer their name and phone number so that interested candidates can learn "behind the scene" information and find out how one goes about getting the job sought.

Incidentally, a questionnaire WAS prepared. It included five simple questions: Name of employer, brief description of position, duration of stay, name of student and phone number. Four-hundred (400) copies were made. They were presented to L.S.A/A.E.D Legislative Council on Wednesday, October 9, 1991. Class presidents were asked to distribute these questionnaires to their constituents. Of the four-hundred questionnaires distributed, a grand total of eleven (11) have been filled out and returned to the Placement Office.

I am not entirely sure of what to draw from these results. Have these 400 questionnaires disappeared in thin air? Or does it take people longer than two weeks to answer what would seem to most as five pretty straight-forward questions? Or have these questionnaires already been filled out and it is simply a matter of more time before they can be expected to make their way back to the Placement Office? Or is the barometer really but an old, broken, useless instrument that no one takes seriously anyway?

On behalf of the entire Placement committee, I urge you to please fill out and return these questionnaires to the Placement Office. If you have not received one, you can pick one up at the Placement Office on Monday 10-12; Tuesday 10-11 and 1-2; Wednesday 10-12; Thursday 10-1 and Friday 12-2; or, you can fill out the sample included in this week's Quid. Take time and make the difference.

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

By Nick Katerinakis, BCL II

Ever since this semester began I have sought insights into what life after law school might be like. One particular concern has dominated my time and has given me a great deal of stress and anxiety. Are my best interests served in the "Belle Province" or does my future lie elsewhere?

All of these concerns began innocently enough over a discussion on whether or not I would work in a law firm this summer, and then all of a sudden boom! It hit me. I would one day have to decide whether or not to stay in Montreal. Here is just some of the considerations that go into this type of life lasting decision.

SHOULD I STAY?

Whether one traces his or her ancestry to the Plains of Abraham or to "a political refugee from Cuba", anyone who has ever decided to call Quebec home definitely knows that there is something special or, dare I say "distinct", about this place. Our fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers or great-grandmothers for that matter, have built this province up from the ground (my ancestors were primarily concerned with feeding you all, at an appropriate profit margin of course). Anyone who knows a even modicum of Canadian history will undoubtedly accept the present political unrest. It is an integral part of everyday life in the province. Think about how boring this world would be if every one got along. There would be no need for lawyers. What would become of this great province if there were no stop signs to deface or no abusive provincial stormtroopers? However the question still remains: stay and fight for my rights and future or flee and follow the hundreds of thousands who have already sought asylum elsewhere?

Life as a Quebec lawyer would undoubtedly provide many pleasures. Besides the language barrier, the blatant discrimination of successive provincial governments

against anglophones and other minorities, and the highest taxation burden of any North American state or province, one might consider thinking of but a few reasons to leave this wonderful place. One might consider the blatant disregard and disrespect for professionals exhibited by the present provincial administration. Given the proposed legislation by the governing medical practitioners, it frightens me to think of what might become of the legal profession in a few years time. If you don't feel quite so vulnerable think back to our beloved first year professor who argued that all civil-delictual liability should be covered under a general scheme. Just words you say? Talk like this starts to make Haiti look good. However with real estate prices the way they are, a house or two in Westmount could become a reality (a certainty if the province was to separate) and one thing you wouldn't have to worry about is getting shot, right? Thinking about complaining? Better get in behind the Native Indians and Blacks of the province, just to name a few.

Add to this, winters that last for eight months, summers where humidity is redefined, and roads that are atrocious, and it's quite hard to understand the motivations of the weak willed that ran for cover in Toronto.

SHOULD I GO?

What of the other side you say? Well, having spent three years as an undergraduate in Ontario, it is safe to say that it is not always greener on the other side of the mountain. If you had any concerns about the afterlife, put them to rest. Toronto is Hell, except with higher rents. Leaving will undoubtedly provide a prospective lawyer with more disposable income, better weather and, of course, the respect we deserve. We all know how much lawyers are revered in the U.S... Spending 20 years in formal educational institutions, the last 7 in Universities (and I'm not even counting kindergarten) must count for something.

Shoot for the sky. We will be leaving the

province with not one, but two McGill Law degrees in hand. New York, London or even Paris is not out of the question. Many questions about these options quickly come to mind. Who will be the famous people I represent? Will I ever pass the damn bar exam? Will I ever own a house? Will it be safe to walk the streets at night? Will there be enough air to breathe and water to drink? All these concerns and more can easily be answered by leaving behind family, as well as friends you have taken over two decades to make! What a proposition!

When one considers the present racial tensions in the United States, the emergence of many new radical right-wing groups in Europe and the liability-insurance lawyers in the rest of the world continue to pay, Quebec's problems pale by comparison.

As this momentous decision rapidly approaches, I cannot help but think how much these concerns have helped me to re-evaluate my priorities. Because, however bleak the future of this province may seem to the untrained eye, some things will undoubtedly never change. Montreal will always be the home of the Montreal Canadians, smoked meat and some of the most beautiful women in the world. Simple pleasures yes, but one can never underestimate these crucial factors in any future career decision. Leaving the peace and sanctity of «Fortress Quebec» is not a decision that should ever be taken lightly. Once you leave there is no telling if and when you will ever be allowed back in.

In the meantime enjoy the place for what it's worth. I cannot think of a place better suited for University Life; and I'm not talking about our unique National Programme. So, order yourself a poutine, work on your French accent over a pool table at Le Swimming and let's make all this talk about leaving our little secret. If mom ever found out, she'd have my head.



Green Space: Action Plans for your garbage?

by Nina Hall, BCL I

Garbage, trash, rubbish, refuse, scrap... (ordures, déchets, rebuts)... By any name Montrealers produce too much waste, enough to fill the Olympic stadium twice each year. Consider that the City of Montreal shares the Island with 27 other (waste generating) municipalities and the equation comes out to nearly two million tonnes per annum! Until recently most North American governments and citizens have appeared content to hide garbage by burning or burying it. The City of Montreal burns 75% of its domestic garbage at the DesCarrières incinerator (recycling 1,6% in 1990) while the Island's other municipalities have relied on the Miron landfill site for disposal. The latter will soon reach capacity and the former has, for years, been the subject of pollution complaints from citizens and environmental groups. Meanwhile garbage production had continued to increase unabated.

The garbage problem needs to be solved not hidden. We've been asking ourselves the wrong questions. Rather than ask "how do we dispose of our trash?", we need to ask ourselves why we produce so darn much of the stuff and just what this stuff is anyway?! (reducables, recyclables, compostables, etc...).

A great many questions are being asked about waste management on the Island these days. Some by governments and most by citizens and groups frustrated by the slow progress of reductions, reuse and recycling strategies on city agendas. The City of Montreal's long-awaited Waste Management Master Plan should be submitted for public consultation soon. The Island's 27 other municipalities banded together to form the Régie Intermunicipale de gestion des déchets sur l'île de Montréal, which proposes to bring "green box" recycling to its residents while investing the larger portion of its budget in a 1400 tonne per day incinerator slated for construction in Montreal East. While the project will be studied publicly by the BAPE (Bureau des

audiences publiques sur l'environnement) as part of the permitting procedure, citizens have not been included in the elaboration of the Régie's Plan.

Frustrated by delays, misinformation and inaction, environmental and community groups banded together in May of this year to form Action RE-buts: la coalition montréalaise pour une gestion écologique et économique des déchets. The coalition's 16 member groups, including the Québec Public Interest Research Group (Québec PIRG) are endeavouring to make Waste Management the subject of a truly public debate. Action RE-buts (REduction, REuse, REcycling/composting) advocates:

1. an approach whose guiding principle is the following: if we cannot control what is coming out of a landfill site (leachate, accumulated gases, etc...), then we must control that which enters the site. (Incineration cannot be included in the options to consider, since burning and thus destroying our waste pollutes our air while generating often toxic ash which must also be landfilled somewhere...).
2. the evaluation of the REAL costs of uncontrolled landfilling and incineration in comparison with the savings and economies realized through a comprehensive reduction, reuse and recycling/composting programme (the "3 R's").
3. the creation of economic incentives designed to encourage participation in such a comprehensive 3 "R's" based programme before undertaking any initiative aimed at burning our garbage and squandering our resources; such incentives will contribute directly to the development of the infrastructures and the markets necessary for the realization of said objective.
4. an analysis of the positive economic impacts of such an approach in terms of the management of resources which have then become "renewable" as well as in terms of the creation of long term environmentally sen-

sible employment.

5. the elaboration, in consultation with all concerned citizens of a plan of action which respects the integrity of our environment and therefore endeavours to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost; "blue box" recycling in all homes and offices is a first step in this direction.

Incineration transforms three tonnes of garbage into one tonne of useless, often toxic ash. The ecological and economic approach takes the same three tonnes of garbage and transforms it into one tonne of recyclable materials, one tonne of compostable materials and one tonne of «education». The latter tonne thus becomes the priority of a new strategy for dealing with our waste - a plan of action based on the hierarchy of the 3 "R's" rather than on incineration and uncontrolled landfills.

Action RE-buts has been lobbying governments, sharing and collecting information on waste management, preparing briefs and holding public meetings since its inception. All this in addition to the actions of its individual member groups. The next few months are sure to see more of Montreal's waste debate occurring in and with the public than ever before.

The "waste crisis" represents an environmental problem which we can all act now to solve. Avoiding waste generation, and recycling at home, at work and in the Law Faculty are important steps we can all take. They involve exercising our responsibilities as individuals and as citizens. We also have rights to exercise: the right to be heard and consulted, the right to participate in the elaboration of waste management policies (at all levels of administration and government). The time to exercise these rights is now. Becoming informed and involved is as simple as getting in touch with Action RE-buts (tel. 398-7457) or your community recycling group.